

The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

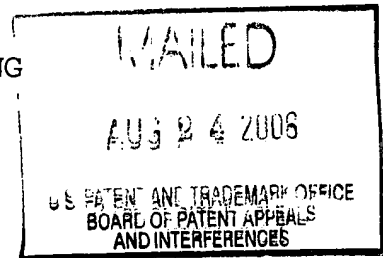
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Ex parte H.S. ROY, JEFF YOUNG

Appeal No. 2006-1730
Application No. 09/456,888

ON BRIEF



Before HAIRSTON, SAADAT and HOMERE, Administrative Patent Judges.
HAIRSTON, Administrative Patent Judge

DECISION ON APPEAL

This is an appeal from the final rejection of claims 1 through 10, 12 through 15, 18, 22 through 25, 27 through 29 and 31 through 48.

The disclosed invention relates to a method and system for generating a document by inserting one or more placeholders in the document. Each of the placeholders has representative content with associated formatting information, and each of the placeholders is bound to a content source. In a presentation mode, the representative content of a placeholder is replaced by content generated based on the content source bound to the placeholder. In this presentation mode, the generated content is

presented according to the formatting information associated with the corresponding representative content.

Claim 1 is illustrative of the claimed invention, and it reads as follows:

1. A method for generating a document, comprising:

inserting one or more placeholders in the document, each placeholder having representative content, the representative content having associated formatting information;

binding each placeholder to a content source; and

presenting the placeholders, including presenting the representative content of the placeholders according to the associated formatting information, the representative content of a placeholder being replaceable in a presentation mode by content generated based on the content source bound to the placeholder, the generated content being presented in the presentation mode according to the formatting information associated with the corresponding representative content.

The references relied on by the examiner are:

Cordell et al. (Cordell)	5,845,084	Dec. 1, 1998
Garber et al. (Garber)	6,347,323	Feb. 12, 2002
		(filed Mar. 26, 1999)

Claims 1 through 10, 12 through 15, 18, 22 through 25, 27 through 29 and 31 through 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cordell in view of Garber.

Reference is made to the briefs and the answer for the respective positions of the appellants and the examiner.

OPINION

We have carefully considered the entire record before us, and we will reverse the obviousness rejection of claims 1 through 10, 12 through 15, 18, 22 through 25, 27 through 29 and 31 through 48.

All of the claims on appeal require that the format associated with the representative content of the placeholder be used in the presentation mode when the representative content is subsequently replaced by generated content.

Cordell describes a method and system of generating a temporary placeholder (e.g., coffee icon 102) (Figure 5C; Abstract; column 8, lines 38 through 47) with a known formatting at a client computer, and replacing the temporary placeholder icon with a final graphical image (e.g., coffee cup 112) (Figure 6; Abstract; column 9, lines 1 through 18) transmitted to the client computer. Since the final graphical image has to undergo reformatting when it is presented at the client computer, it does not use the known formatting of the temporary placeholder (Abstract; column 2, line 63 through column 3, line 4; column 5, lines 56 through 63; column 9, lines 1 through 9). Thus, Cordell does not teach "the generated content being presented in the presentation mode according to the formatting information associated with the corresponding representative content."

The examiner acknowledges (answer, page 4) that Cordell does not use the same format for the temporary placeholder and for the generated graphical image (i.e., content) displayed at the client computer.

The examiner turns to Garber for the teaching found lacking in Cordell (answer, pages 4 and 5).

Garber describes a method of preserving formatting and other attributes when a HTML document created with a text editor is opened in an HTML editor (Abstract; column 7, lines 11 through 19 and 52 through 55).

Appellants argue inter alia that "Garber does not disclose or teach an HTML document that includes placeholders, and it does not disclose or teach an HTML document that includes representative content placeholders," and that neither Cordell nor Garber teaches "[b]oth the generated content and the representative content are presented according to the formatting information associated with the representative content of the placeholder" (brief, pages 6 and 7).

We agree with the appellants' arguments that Garber is silent as to placeholders, and that neither reference teaches or would have suggested to the skilled artisan the use of the same format for both the temporary placeholder icon and the final graphical image that is displayed at the client computer. In summary, the obviousness rejection of claims 1 through 10, 12

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